



TIDINGS

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

www.urantia-iaa.org

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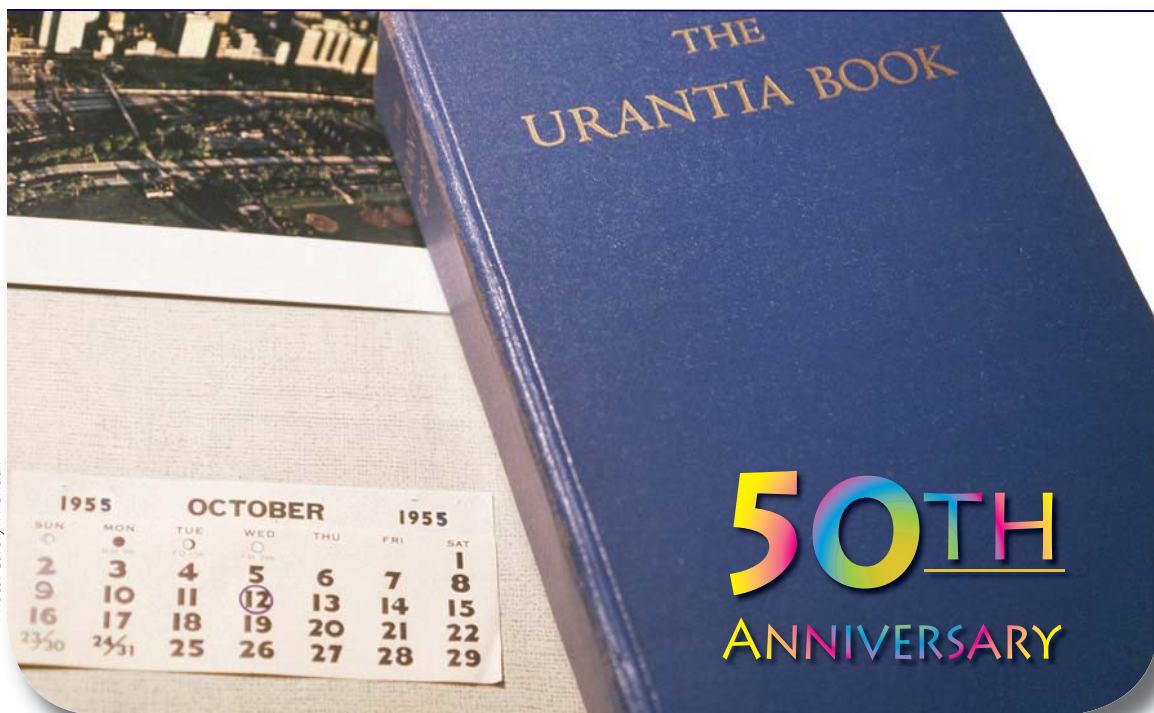


Photo: Carolyn Kendall



Urantia Foundation, 533 Diversey, Chicago



Bill Sadler with first books delivered.

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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,



THIS ISSUE CELEBRATES the 50th anniversary of the publication of *THE URANTIA BOOK*. Just think how good the news of the publication of *THE URANTIA BOOK* was to the Forum members at that time. As we celebrate in our heart this past event, let's rejoice in the fact that we have been blessed personally by discovering this spiritual treasure through the ministry of our Adjuster, the Spirit of truth and the Holy Spirit. Let us be thankful to those spiritual helpers for the privilege that was given us to be part of this enlightening and loving mission to our world.

As this issue was being prepared to be published, the Representative Council is having an open discussion on the creation of a discussion list in the format of a bulletin board that would accommodate any discussion that could be political, philosophical or spiritual in nature. This list would in part replace the Urantia T list that was administered by the Foundation. The UAI list would still be used for news, announcements or information pertaining to our mission. The RC has also voted to permit its members to share information concerning the nature of the discussions that relate to Item 33 (Name change for UAI). A very important item is soon to be presented to the RC, the annual budget for 2006. Our treasurer, Mark Kurtz, has done a great job in simplifying its content to reflect the needs of UAI.

Rick Lyon, Chair of the Study Group Committee, is about to make available a Study Group Starter Kit to help interested readers who want to start or improve their study group. The ISB is also on the verge of creating a sub-committee that will oversee the use of the UAI database and its availability to members of its many associations. Many improvements have been added to increase its usability and its security and as I am writing this, Oscar Morales is hard at work to implement the many improvements that were requested by us. Good reading.

—Gaetan Charland
President, UAI

A note from the editor

THE AIM of this issue of Tidings is to recreate the wonderful event of the publication of *THE URANTIA BOOK*. You will view this episode in history from various angles.

We might wonder how we mere mortals may be judged as to how we have handled this revelation this first 5% of the first 1,000 years. How many years did it take for Christianity to take root? That was the first stage, this revelation is the next stage in fulfilling Jesus' mission.

In April, 1955, Wm. S. Sadler, Jr. wrote and delivered to the Forum "Timing of *THE URANTIA BOOK*," which were excerpts from "wise sayings" which were originally written communications addressed to the contact commissioners.

"You must learn to possess your souls in patience. You are in association with a revelation of truth which is a part of the natural evolution of religion on this world. Overrapid growth would be suicidal. The book is being given to those who are ready for it long before the day of its world-wide mission. Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence and the book must be translated into many tongues. Thus will the book be in readiness when the battle for man's liberty is finally won and the world is once more made safe for the religion of Jesus and the freedom of mankind." ("Plan For *THE URANTIA BOOK* Revelation," Carolyn Kendall, 1996)

"You are in association with a revelation of truth which is a part of the natural evolution of religion on this world." A big responsibility, wouldn't you agree?

—Cathy Jones

I remember

CHRISTY

JOHN PLOETZ
SOUTHWEST URANTIA READERS FAMILY

UNTIL HER DEATH in 1982, Emma Louise Christensen was the last survivor of the five human beings entrusted with the Urantia revelation – the Contact Commission. Known to virtually everyone who knew her as “Christy,” she lived most of her life at 533 Diversey Parkway in Chicago, headquarters of Urantia Foundation.

Behind the facts of her long and productive life, and her service as a founding Trustee of Urantia Foundation and President of Urantia Brotherhood, was an energetic and relentlessly positive woman who I grew up knowing as Aunt Christy.

Christy was the sister of my grandmother Minnie, so she was my mother’s aunt, my great aunt. She and Minnie grew up on a farm in the bleak prairie of South Dakota. Their grandfather, Christen Christensen,

THREE WOMEN
Left to right, Minnie, Emma (Christy), and Olga, three sisters, all students of *The Urantia Book*. They all lived in the Chicago area and I was close to each of them as I grew up. This picture was taken about 1946.



SINGLE WOMAN
Christy as a young woman, date unknown.

NOTE: Photos in this article copyright 2005 by John Ploetz. All rights reserved.

had emigrated from Denmark in 1865. Their father, Nels, was left a widower with eight children to raise when Christy was only five years old. I think the life lessons learned in this family on their remote farm had a great deal to do with forming Christy’s character. She was highly internally motivated to leave that isolated community and make something of herself. In a day when society’s roles for women were much more circumscribed than today, she attended college, moved to Chicago, and went to work as a supervisor of bank examiners. She was a professional person and far from naïve about the nature of the world, yet never cynical. Those who knew her were drawn to her aura of leadership and authority.

As a child I loved Christy for her generosity. She hosted our family at Dr. Sadler’s summer home in Beverly Shores, Indiana. She gave me my very first camera, a Brownie, for Christmas, 1956, when I was seven years old. I carried it until it broke in 1973. At seven, I

was vaguely aware of the large blue books everywhere but I was certainly unable to read *THE URANTIA BOOK* for myself! I believed it, however —perhaps largely because Aunt Christy had such total certainty about it.

I also loved her great cooking. Thanksgiving on the third floor was a marvelous feast presided over by the wise and learned Dr. Sadler. Even in her nineties Christy would insist on making us lunch when Jane and I would visit.

She was a warm and outgoing person who thought people were endlessly interesting. Everyone who took the time to travel to 533 received her full attention. She had a great ability to be fully present with people.

As I grew older I did read *THE URANTIA BOOK* myself, and asked Christy many questions. When I asked about something which she could not talk about, she would gently say, “I have the answer” (and that would be the end of that topic!) Supposedly this is what the Contact Commissioners themselves were told when they asked a question which wouldn’t be answered. It’s quite a different answer than, “I don’t know.” Such things impressed me with her loyalty to her trust.

Christy was cheerful and happy, which we are told is the nature of those who are certain about God. (1766.06) She spoke to the best in everyone; inspired



FAMILY 1898

Christy with her father and her sisters, in about 1898. She is standing, second from left. Presumably her brother took the picture as he is not in it. (I have always been touched by the expression on father Nels’ face. This is about three years after he lost his wife due to complications from the birth of Olga, in white.)

them to do better. Once she told a homeless man sleeping in her doorway to “Get up, you’re a child of God!” Thinking about her today, I can still hear her enunciate each syllable of the word “won-der-ful!” and she truly found the wonders in the commonplace prose of routine existence. Not the least of these is that the great God of a universe loves each of us, His mortal children. This was an unquestioned personal reality in Christy’s experience.

Christy was opinionated and highly intelligent. I am amused by the efforts of some to portray her as addled in her old age in order to question her judgment. She was mentally sharp right to the end of her long life. I spoke to Christy for the last time on the day before she died at age 92. Her lung was filling up with fluid and the doctors had already drained it twice. The procedure was exhausting and she had decided not to have it done a third time. We both knew what this meant. We said goodbye, and I told her I knew I would see her again. With strength and absolute assurance, she replied, “You bet you will, Johnny, you bet you will.”

What a great influence Christy had on my life! I look forward to that time when I see her again. □



John Ploetz,
President,
Southwest Urantia
Readers Family—UAI
Jane Ploetz,
Associate Trustee,
Urantia Foundation
UAUS Cruise 2005

A HISTORY AND OVERVIEW of *THE URANTIA BOOK* and Urantia Foundation

EXCERPTS FROM TRUSTEE
GEORGES MICHELSON-DUPONT'S SPEECH
HELSINKI, FINLAND. – 7 AUGUST 1998



COMMISSIONERS. Left to right: Christy, Dr Lena Sadler, Dr William Sadler and Bill Sadler Jr, four of the six commissioners. Lena Sadler was the first person who 'believed' the *subject* and raised the money to print the first printing.

FIRST OF ALL I would like, in the name of my fellows trustees, the Executive Director Tonia Baney, and all the staff of Urantia Foundation, to welcome you to the first international IUA conference ever held outside the US territory. It is not by chance that this thrilling event is taking place in Helsinki. The Finnish Urantia movement started in the early sixties as a result of a ready made group who were interested in UFO's, finding *THE URANTIA BOOK*. Several attempts to translate *THE URANTIA BOOK* into Finnish were made before Seppo Kanerva, a distinguished linguist and a dear friend of mine, was appointed by Urantia Foundation to that task.

The Fifth Epochal Revelation: *THE URANTIA BOOK*

Regarding the succession of Epochal Revelations, we are told that Urantia is a decimal planet and subject to experiments. We are also told that our unfortunate world has suffered from betrayal, impatience, and quarantine and therefore we know that "Urantia is not proceeding in the normal order." [597:2].

I guess the spiritual beings in charge of the welfare of our planet were confronted with the following problem: what sort of epochal revelation would they offer to Urantia as the fifth, keeping in mind that the first two failed, the third was an emergency revelation, and the fourth died on the cross with Jesus' teachings and became somewhat distorted and Occidentalized.

As we see, they have chosen a book. And of course we can conjecture about the many reasons for such a

choice. Following are two that I believe are important:

- A book is a perfect modern vehicle to convey information and concepts to people. Therefore any individual, as well as each and every family, can be exposed to it. It can also be translated and widely spread at low cost all over the world. But there are also some dangers: for instance, the text can be modified, altered, simplified, digested, and/or dismembered. All of this would lower the strength and efficiency of the revelation. It could simply be destroyed or lost if not enough of the integral text is spread. The quality and accuracy of the translations will be a determining factor for its success to all non-English speaking countries.

- A book is an intellectual challenge to the human mind. We had the physical upliftment of humanity with Adam and Eve. We had the spiritual upliftment with Jesus and his unmatched teachings. We now have the intellectual upliftment with *THE URANTIA BOOK*. Therefore it is important that the integrity and the integrality of the text, as well as the quality of the translations, be respected and spread as a whole, in order to be safe and to continue, century after century, to challenge the human mind.

While the revelators were preparing to launch this revelation, it is my belief that they were also conscious of the possible dangers mentioned above. As part of their investigations for the place, the timing, and the people, they also looked very carefully at human laws and organizations.

Finally, they came up with a holistic plan that we



SUMMER PICNIC. A group of participants during the early Forum years at Beverly Shores, Indiana, mid-1930's.

Photo provided by Barbara Newsom

may divide into three periods or steps, which could be compared to the important periods of the life of a human being:

Step one: Preparation and reception of the Urantia Papers (early 1910-1937) – (pregnancy). At some time during the process, some humans would be involved.

Step two: Organization, planning, launching and early development (1938–2030) (Birth and infancy of the revelation.) At that time, an organization would be created with the task of dissemination, producing translations, and protection. Also, some kind of social body of believers, as the natural off-spring to the Forum, would take place.

“This was the procedure followed throughout the many years of the reception of the Urantia Papers. No questions – no Papers.”

Step three: The full epoch of the revelation (2030–next Revelation), (adulthood of the revelation) —the time of maturity. The text would be in the public domain, translations available in

most of the languages of the world, worldwide spreading, and the evolutionary leavening and blooming of the revelation among the people of Urantia.

The Unpublished William S. Sadler History

An interesting unpublished document, written by Doctor William S. Sadler, which is now on public record, explains more about the appearance and the development of the Urantia Papers.

The pre-education of Doctor Sadler and his little group.

Dr. Sadler describes how carefully and intensively his group was trained for twenty years as a pre-education before the Papers started. We read from his history:

Early Development of the Urantia Papers “During these early years we were introduced to many new and, somewhat strange concepts of the universe of universes and as concerned man and his life on earth” Dr. Sadler goes on to list numerous ideas of cosmology and philosophy which were introduced at this time; new concepts such as the far-flung cosmos, millions of other inhabited worlds, scores of different celestial personalities, confirmation of the evolutionary origin of humankind, an evolutionary universe, multiple Creator Deities, Havona, superuniverses, the Supreme Being etc.

Dr Sadler wrote: “Our superhuman friends spent upward of two decades in extending our cosmic horizons, enlarging our theologic concepts, and expanding our over-all philosophy.”

“We never did realize how much our religious thinking had been expanded until the Papers began to arrive. As the revelation progressed, we came more fully to appreciate how we had been prepared for the vast aberration of our religious beliefs by these preliminary contacts extending over a period of twenty years of pre-education.”

“Our apprenticeship training for subsequent services in association with the presentation of the Urantia Papers was facilitated by the fact that, except for contacts with the midwayers, no two contacts were alike. Seldom did we meet the visiting personalities more than once. Every contact was entirely different from any and all that had gone before. And all of this experience was an extensive and liberal preparatory educational duplicates, and in a general way, classifying them. Shortly thereafter, the first Urantia Papers appeared, the questions disappeared.”

“This was the procedure followed throughout the many years of the reception of the Urantia Papers. No questions – no Papers.”

The Forum and the Contact Commission become two separate groups.

Then, we are told that in September 1925, Dr. Sadler and his contact group were asked to form a closed group: I quote:

“About this time, (September 1925) the Forum, as it were, was taken away from us. We were instructed to

“And it will not be so much by the words you speak as by the lives you live that men will know you have been with me and have learned of the realities of the kingdom.” P. 1569

form a “closed group” - requiring each member to sign a pledge of secrecy and to discuss the Papers and all matters pertaining thereto with only those persons who were members of the Forum.”

“The last meeting of the Forum as a genetic assembly was held on

May 3 I, 1942. During the seventeen years of official existence the Forum attained a total of membership of 486.”

“During the period of the reception of the Urantia Papers, upward of 300 different persons participated in asking these genetic questions. With but few exceptions, all of the Urantia Papers were given in response to such questions.”

“The individuals charged with the responsibility of gathering up the questions and comparing the typewritten text with the original handwritten manuscript, came to be known as the ‘Contact Commissioners.’ From that date forward only these Contact Commissioners attended ‘contacts’ and received written communications through the contact



Dr William Sadler

Photo provided by Barbara Newson

personality.”

Here is another interesting statement from Doctor Sadler: “The Commissioners were the custodians of the Urantia manuscript, keeping the carbon copy of the typewritten transcript in a fire-proof vault. They were also charged with the full responsibility for supervising all the details connected with the publication of the Book, securing the international copyrights, etc.”

These statements make it very clear that the Revelators had concerns for the protection of the Papers under copyright laws.

Seeking for a copyright could not have been initiated by the revelators’ human counter-part, the Contact Commission since, according to Sadler, “They were charged with the full responsibility for supervising all the details connected with the publication of the Book, securing the international copyrights, etc.” The question is “who charged them” with those responsibilities? And the only rational answer is: the Revelators did. As a matter of fact, Urantia Foundation has written documents showing that as early as October 1932, Mr. Wilfred Kellogg, one of the contact commissioners, was charged with the responsibility of looking into international copyright for *THE URANTIA BOOK*. It is my understanding that the authors were already seeking for the protection of the Book long before it was even finished.

Dr Sadler also said: “We were enjoined to refrain from discussing the identity of the Contact Personality and, after the publication of the Book, to make any statement at any time as to whether the “subject” was still living or was deceased.”

The Declaration of Trust as the plan for the spreading of the revelation.

What to do with those plates, and were precise instructions given on how to proceed with the spreading of the revelation?

Since all written instructions were burned, we only have hearsay and oral testimony to rely upon—none of which can be scientifically proven (even if the instructions are consistent with our understanding and appear to be rational.)

The only document upon which we can surely rely upon is the Declaration of Trust creating Urantia



Forum party 1930's

Photo provided by Barbara Newsom

Foundation. In fact this document institutes Urantia Foundation as the owner of *THE URANTIA BOOK*, assigns the goals of Urantia Foundation, builds the plan for the dissemination of the teachings of *THE*

PRINCIPAL OBJECT: The object for which this foundation is created is the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of Cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the Universe, ...

URANTIA BOOK, and gives instructions for the protection of the text. It indicates how Urantia Foundation and the Trustees should operate to launch and construct the foundation for the worldwide spreading of the revelation.

While this Declaration of Trust is a typical, usual, and classic 1950's Foundation document, articles No. 1, 2, and 3 are inspired

if not authored by the revelators themselves. Those articles are very specific and precise: they describe what Urantia Foundation is set up for and what the duties of the Trustees are.

The PREAMBLE and ARTICLE I of the Declaration of Trust create and institute Urantia Foundation as the owner of *THE URANTIA BOOK*:

“PREAMBLE: Whereas the Contributors, being desirous that their identity remain unknown in order that the creation of such foundation shall have no limitations by reason of its association with their names, coincident

with the execution of this Declaration of Trust and with full knowledge and in consideration thereof, have caused their nominees to deliver and turn over to the undersigned the said plates for the printing and reproduction of *THE URANTIA BOOK*, to be held in trust to make possible the accomplishment and fulfillment of such desires and to carry out and perpetuate the objects herein expressed.” And,

“1.1 CREATION: We, the undersigned, for and in behalf of the Contributors and those whose inspirations have this conceived, by this Declaration of Trust, hereby create, found, and establish this Foundation to be known as ‘Urantia FOUNDATION’ “

“ 1 . 2 . ACCEPTANCE AND DECLARATION: We, the undersigned, for ourselves and our successors in trust as herein-after defined, do hereby acknowledge that there have been transferred and delivered to us approximately two thousand two hundred (2,200) nickel-plated stereotype plates of patent thickness prepared from the manuscript of *THE URANTIA BOOK* for the printing and reproduction thereof ...” etc.

ARTICLE II assigns the goals and objectives of Urantia Foundation for the dissemination and the protection of the teachings of *THE URANTIA BOOK*:

Article II: “2.1 PRINCIPAL OBJECT: The object for which this foundation is created is the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of Cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the Universe, of the genesis and destiny of Man and his relation to God, and of the true teachings of Jesus Christ; and for the inculcation and encouragement of the realization and appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man- in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well being of Man, as an individual and as a member of society, through the fostering of a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with Man’s intellectual and cultural development.”

“2.2.CONCORDANT OBJECTS: The concordant objects for which the Foundation is created are to perpetually preserve inviolate the text of *THE URANTIA BOOK* and to disseminate the principles, teachings, and doctrines of *THE URANTIA BOOK*.

ARTICLE III gives the plan for the Trustees to fulfill their trust and to carry out their task:

“3.1 - PRESERVATION OF THE TEXT OF *THE URANTIA BOOK* : It shall be the primary duty of the Trustees to perpetually preserve inviolate the text of *THE URANTIA BOOK*, and the Trustees shall use and employ such means and methods, and facilities and apply and expend as much of the Trust Estate as in the judgment of the Trustees shall be necessary, proper, or appropriate, for the preserving and the safekeeping of copies of the original text of *THE URANTIA BOOK*, duly authenticated by the Trustees, from loss, damage, or destruction and from alteration, modification, revision, or change in any manner or in any particular.”

“3.2. EFFECTING PRINCIPAL OBJECT: It shall be the duty of the Trustees to use and employ such means and methods as they shall from time to time devise and develop and to apply and expend the Trust Estate to promote and effectuate the general purposes as set forth in paragraph 2.1.”

“3.3. PRESERVATION AND CONTROL OF REPRODUCTION OF *THE URANTIA BOOK*: It shall be the duty of the Trustees to retain absolute and unconditional control of all plates and other media for the printing and reproduction of *THE URANTIA BOOK* and any translation thereof, to make or cause to be made such additional plates and other media as shall from time to time be required to print and reproduce *THE URANTIA BOOK* and any translation thereof, to retain the absolute

and unconditional control of the possession, .custody, use, and disposition of all such plates and other media for the printing and reproduction of *THE URANTIA BOOK* and translation thereof, and to apply and use the Trust Estate therefor.”

At this time, I would like to quote one of my predecessors in Trust: “We must be living examples of this new revelation – individually and collectively.”

And in conclusion, the following quote from *THE URANTIA BOOK*:

“And this which your eyes now behold, this small beginning of twelve commonplace men, shall multiply and grow until eventually the whole earth shall be filled with the praise of my Father. And it will not be so much by the words you speak as by the lives you live that men will know you have been with me and have learned of the realities of the kingdom. And while I would lay no grievous burdens upon your minds, I am about to put upon your souls the solemn responsibility of representing me in the world when I shall presently leave you as I now represent my Father in this life which I am living in the flesh.” [1569:4] □

Georges Michelson-Dupont’s entire speech at:
http://www.urantia-iaa.org/articles/history_and_overview.pdf



Foundation Volunteers – Early 1970’s

Picture submitted by Joyce Lapham, Charter Member, Minnesota Urantia Association.

These dedicated ladies had just received “Certificates for Volunteer Service to Urantia Foundation.”

Joyce and Christy enjoyed a close, sisterly relationship over the course of many years. Joyce continues to meet with *URANTIA BOOK* readers in Minnesota.

—Cathy Jones

The Urantia revelation and my world



Barbara Newsom (middle) with Dublin readers Eileen Appleyard (right) and Wendy (left) meeting in Glendalough, Ireland, May 2005.

BARBARA NEWSOM
GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION

WHAT WERE YOU, your parents, or grandparents doing on October 12, 1955? At what point since then were you introduced to *THE URANTIA BOOK*? Most important, what difference has it made in your life? The 50th anniversary of the publication of the Fifth Epochal Revelation to our world is a wonderful time for reflection. Hearing one another's experiences inspires us. For our future is great: presenting the revelation—the soul saving message of God's love and our spiritual kinship—to a world in need.

On October 12, 1955, I lived in the home in Wichita, Kansas, where my parents live today. I was eight-years-old and liked my neighborhood and school. The Episcopal Church we attended was a few blocks away. My parents were happy to have a settled home after my father's service as a medical doctor in the Pacific in World War II and stateside in the Korean War. I know now that they were raising my sister and me to develop our own faith naturally.

What did I learn from those early pioneers that would apply to readers today? There is so much that choosing my favorite is difficult, but it is this: that the spiritual priorities of the revelation come first.

I have learned from historical records that there was a study group in Wichita at that time, started by Forum member Nola Smith's brother, who lived there and received his book upon its publication. My family did not learn of the book until 1965, at which time only 10,000 copies had been sold. When people ask me how I learned of the book, I have often just said my mother told me about it,

which is true. But there is so much more to the story.

My parents and I attribute our introduction to the book to my sister Mary, which is remarkable as she died before ever learning of *THE URANTIA BOOK*. On October 31, 1964, our lives changed dramatically when she died at age 15 in an auto accident that took the lives of eight other young people, most of whom were our neighborhood friends. She was my best friend and at 17, my senior year in high school, I had begun to appreciate that fact. This tragedy affected not only our families, but also our communities. It reminds me of our world today.

Our minister was so distressed that he read some of Mary's own writings about her faith at her funeral to help him get through the service. Her words were quoted in the newspapers and friends asked for copies. One of those copies made it to a Urantia Book reader, who had seen my mother at a community volunteer group. In the spring of 1965, she introduced herself to my mother at a meeting and told her that based on Mary's writing, she thought our family might be interested in a book she was reading.

When she invited my mother to come to her home to learn about the book, Mother said she wanted to bring me along. Her friend said, "I don't know, this book is controversial." My mother assured her that would not be a problem. We told my father about it, and all began attending their weekly study group. Keep in mind—this was forty years ago in Kansas. If they could have this kind of support for new readers then, we can certainly do it now.

What did I gain from *THE URANTIA BOOK* that I didn't already have? As my good friend Ticky Harris says, "We had faith, but we didn't have answers!" By that time, I had a lot of questions. Some people's reactions to my sister's accident shocked me. Although I understand them now, they seemed foreign to me, such as the idea that such a terrible event had not only been caused by God, but also as a punishment for our sins.

To grieve and recover, I prayed and meditated every morning, as was my habit as a child. Mainly, I prayed every day to choose love and faith over hate and fear, and to forgive people who were hurting one another. By the time spring came, I longed to tell everyone in Wichita that it was the God of love who helped me through that crisis. At Easter, the Wichita newspaper asked me to write about my own faith for their annual series. I still don't know how that happened, but it meant a great deal to me to share God's love in the context of that tragedy.

Upon learning of the book, just after that article was published, I felt it affirmed in what I had believed.

"I am not too much interested in the number of *Urantia Books* you dispense but I am tremendously interested in the souls you will lead into the kingdom by your own proclamation of the dynamic truths about God and his universe which Jesus has revealed to you; in how you are feeding the hungry souls that you meet 'as you pass by.'"
—Christy

I could also see that the book gave me more than I had before reading it. It took weeks for the books we ordered from Urantia Foundation to arrive. The price was \$10.00. I still remember reading my very own book the first time. Although I had been impressed with what I was reading in our study group, I wanted to see what the book had to say about the faith of Jesus. If I could believe what the authors had to say about Jesus, then I would read

the whole book. And so I read the last paper first. It's still my favorite paper. I also read about the inevitabilities of life, p. 51, and how genuine spiritual faith is revealed, p. 1108, almost every day.

By the time I moved to the University of Kansas that fall, our new friend had become my "Urantia mother." She helped me transition to college as much as my own parents did. I was always a welcome guest in her beautiful home. In looking back over the years, I find that what mattered most to me about the introduction I received to the book, was not how much the readers knew about the revelation—and they knew a great deal—but how much they cared about me and my parents. They remained our close friends to the end of their lives.

I believe I will carry those memories to the mansion

worlds and even to Paradise. Today I look for people in need, just as they did then. Their ministry to me was a ministry of mercy. I was on my own in my faith; I had asked questions that even our minister could not answer and was honest enough to say so. So yes, I was on a quest. I always had *THE URANTIA BOOK* to answer my youthful questions and to compare to what I was learning in school.

Like so many other new readers, I traveled to Urantia Foundation in Chicago to learn more about the people who brought the book into the world. I was warmly welcomed into their gracious homes and impressed with their quality: They were among the best people I had ever met. Although they were human and would be the first say so, they set a high standard for us. It was the highest privilege to work with them when I moved to Chicago in 1975, after studying with groups in Kansas, Oklahoma, and California.

What did I learn from those early pioneers that would apply to readers today? There is so much that choosing my favorite is difficult, but it is this: that the spiritual priorities of the revelation come first. As Jesus said, "That which the world needs most to know is: Men are the sons of God, and through faith they can actually realize, and daily experience this ennobling truth." (p. 2052)

Everything else is secondary, including the book itself. Bill Sadler, Jr., as the first president of Urantia Brotherhood, wrote: "God is the only true end....*THE URANTIA BOOK* is a Means to an End....If we can clearly separate Means and Ends, if we can always subordinate Means to the true End, then we shall continue for a very long time as a real Brotherhood." The third president of Urantia Brotherhood, E. L. Christensen (Christy), wrote, "I am not too much interested in the number of Urantia Books you dispense but I am tremendously interested in the souls you will lead into the kingdom by your own proclamation of the dynamic truths about God and his universe which Jesus has revealed to you; in how you are feeding the hungry souls that you meet 'as you pass by.'"

If we love one more person each day, share our faith through true service, and thus grow spiritually, I believe the revelation will achieve its full potential. As Jesus said, "You well know the commandment which directs that you love one another; that you love your neighbor even as yourself.... I would have you perform still greater acts of love in the kingdom of the believing brotherhood. And so I give you this new commandment: That you love one another even as I have loved you." (p. 1944) □

JULIA FENDERSON: A stroll in my gallery of beauty

LEE ARMSTRONG
VIRGINIA CAROLINA READERS

Train your memory to hold in sacred trust the strength-giving and worth-while episodes of life, which you can recall at will for your pleasure and edification. Thus build up for yourself and in yourself reserve galleries of beauty, goodness, and artistic grandeur. But the noblest of all memories are the treasured recollections of the great moments of a superb friendship. – Paper 160, “Rodan of Alexandria”

AS I STUDY THE LIFE of Jesus in *THE URANTIA BOOK*, one thing that strikes me is how each person thought of Him as their best friend. Julia Fenderson was one of those rare individuals who reflected this aspect of the Master in her life. She was a member of the Forum in Chicago, the group that studied the papers prior to the book’s publication. Known as Julia Early, she volunteered at 533 Diversey and then moved to Los Angeles where she married Bill Fenderson, a newspaperman, and settled in Culver City. Julia had a study group that focused on comparative religions prior to the book’s publication.

My wife Roselyn Armstrong recalls how Julia kept her promise of confidentiality about the papers prior to publication and did not even tell her husband about them. Julia would say, “So don’t tell me a woman can’t keep a secret!” Richard Keeler recalls that later she had a needlepoint hanging in her home with a quote from Paper 146, ““The human tongue,” said Jesus, “is a member which few men can tame, but the spirit within can transform this unruly member into a kindly voice of tolerance and an inspiring minister of mercy.”

It was her sincere friendliness that made Julia such an effective disseminator of *THE URANTIA BOOK*. Shirley Pelland recalled, “From the minute I first met her, she would call me on the phone & talk to me like I was her best friend forever.” Gard Jameson noted, “What impressed me most about Julia was her selfless manner. She exhibited the fruits of the spirit: as a peacemaker, as an expression of joy & in her love for all those near her.” Cathy Jones remembers calling, “This lovely voice answered, so warm & real. We chatted

Photo provided by Barbara Newsom



JULIA FENDERSON – First Urantia Foundation Representative and an early leader of *URANTIA BOOK* readers from the West Coast (USA)

a moment & she told me there was to be a fraternal meeting the following weekend. When I got there, she greeted me and I felt at home. She had that ability to make everyone feel special and cared for.” Dorothy Elder reflected, “Only 6 months after I found *THE URANTIA BOOK*, the two of us traveled to the Urantia Foundation together to attend the annual reader’s seminar in 1969.” Julia had a masterful way with people.

She was an educator and wrote supplements for textbooks. She applied her avocation to the teachings of the book and established a course on “Marriage & Family.” Both my wife and I and Gard & Florence Jameson took the class at the same time. The Jamesons’ daughter is named after Julia. Gard laughed, “And obviously, her marriage class worked pretty darn good for you & me!” When Roselyn & I got married, my best man wound up snowed in at the Denver airport. At the last moment, Julia graciously stepped in. As we signed the certificates, Julia exclaimed, “This is my first time as a best man!”

I remember taking my parents to one of the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles meetings where Julia presented as only she could on the topic of “sex.” Her presentation was frank, clear and spiritually enlightened. I also remember one birthday celebration for her where she exclaimed, “I’m here to tell you, life begins at 77!” Shirley Pelland shared a sentiment with which those who knew her would agree, “She was like a Morontia companion to many of us. There was no doubt that she lived and breathed the teachings.” □

What was it like in the early days of the Forum?

BY KATHERINE "TICKY" JONES HARRIS
FORMER FORUM MEMBER
SOUTHERN KINDRED SPIRITS

IT SEEMS TO BE A HUMAN failing that one doesn't realize, until after the fact, just how wonderful something really is. I certainly didn't.

It seemed very normal to me, and logical too, to go to 533 Diversey with my parents on Sunday afternoon after going to church in the morning. After all, wasn't and isn't Sunday the day we devote to God?

We didn't feel that we were doing anything that was so much out of the ordinary. We were all male and female, all different ethnic and educational backgrounds, and different ages doing together something that was of interest to all. And without realizing it we were being educated and trained for the task of preparing to teach and spread the upgraded teachings to the whole planet.

Sounds scary, doesn't it? But it really wasn't because we were all learning together, and at our own pace. We were being trained to do the job for this planet that the Revelators had been trained to do for us.

We met each Sunday to have read to us any new information which had been received. This was in the first hour. Then we took time to have refreshments and visit with one another before "returning to class"



Ticky (right) with Rita Gum from Utah, (left) and M. Caoile of Oregon (center) at the Urantia 2004 conference in Chicago. Ticky was the youngest member of the Forum. At age 13 she was assigned to membership by Dr. Sadler, after signing a confidentiality statement.

for questions, answers, and discussion. Our questions, answers, and ideas were used as subject matter for subsequent Papers.

Enduring friendships were formed and many parties and get-togethers occurred over the years, both big ones and smaller ones, too. This business of learning new truths and then teaching them was serious business, but it never seemed so. Although many years have passed since those days we are still at work together teaching, learning, growing, and passing on these wonderful truths to "the next generation."

So when you wonder what it was like at the early Forum meetings, remember that it was much like it is now. In the midst of all the wonderful technological changes over the years the core mission of spreading new and enlarged truths remains ever the same. And although each group does it in its own way we are all striving for the same goal.

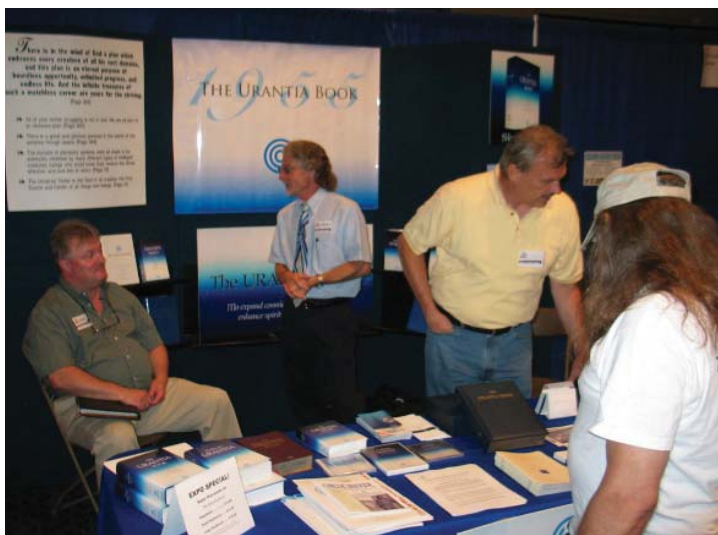
"As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end." □

Chicago Body Mind and Spirit Expo

BENET RUTENBERG
GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION

DURING THE WEEKEND of August 27-28, GLMUA attended and displayed *THE URANTIA BOOK* for the Chicago Body Mind and Spirit Expo. The Expo was held at an exhibit hall in the town of Skokie, about thirty minutes north of Urantia Foundation at 533. This event had been planned since early spring as our first experience in this type of endeavor. We were encouraged by the attendance and success of our brothers across the pond in London and others around the US.

Representing GLMUA were: James Woodward, Mark Branham, Chris Bailey, Mark Kurtz, Chris Wood, Bill Martin and myself. Tamara Wood of Urantia Foundation was of tremendous support during this effort. There were about seventy five exhibitors representing all types of new age, metaphysical, massage, alternative medicine and equipment, Buddhism, Course in Miracles, natural food supplements and various mediums and the like. The channelers in the



Benet seated, James Woodward standing rear and Mark Branham at the table talking to a visitor that bought a paperback copy of TUB.

Photo: James Woodward



Chris Wood and Mark Banham at the table.

booth next to us were familiar with and positive about UB. We were visited on a regular basis by “Course” members who bought several books and gave positive complements towards the teachings of Jesus as stated in UB.

Over the two days we spoke to over five hundred people, some briefly and some at length. One lady came up, read one of our posters with a few quotes on it and bought a book on the spot. She said she had never seen or heard of this but just had to have it. While there were many who looked but were interested more in other things, there were also many who came back around and found welcome conversation and sometimes answers to their search. One interesting thing to me was the fact that the attendees came with interest and hunger, no matter their leaning. We would see many of them circle the event several times and over several hours. People are searching for truth and they come from many levels. Some look only for the quick fix or the magic pill but many more want to go in depth. It is here that we made several friends. All in all we sold thirty books with proceeds going to Urantia Foundation. Some, who bought the book, said they had put off getting it because they heard it was tough

Photo: Mark Kurtz

to read. We encouraged these people to trust the spirit and the Father to bring the teachings alive for them. We left many smiles among refreshed souls who have taken an important step in their journey.

On Saturday, our event chairperson, James Woodward gave a one hour talk on the content, cosmology and structure of Urantia Book. There were three presentations going during any given hour for the benefit of the attendees. The presentation, given by James, was received well and with great interest. Many came by the booth later on to speak with us further and some bought the book. It was especially interesting when one woman asked about reincarnation. James fielded the question honestly and candidly. Though the woman appeared disappointed, James presented it in such a way as to refocus the conversation on the progressive lives we would all be living leading up to the presence of God. Those in the room stayed on with questions and commentary until we were moved along

It is quite apparent in attending an event like this that there are thousands upon thousands of hungry souls looking for deeper truth. We would do well to be prepared when they chance to knock on our door.

by the next group. The manner of the presentation was even, informative, educational and yet friendly and down to earth. Well done James.

It was indeed a pleasure to add a few more readers to the revelation. Some of them, who asked, were invited to study group. One man and woman, who already had the

book and bought another one, said they didn't believe in study groups. There was some cult fear which we listened to and invited them anyway. It was suggested that after they read a little more they might want to start their own group. He appeared surprised but the thought took some root.

It is quite apparent in attending an event like this that there are thousands upon thousands of hungry souls looking for deeper truth. We would do well to be prepared when they chance to knock on our door. Who cannot benefit from knowing God as their Father and all people as their spiritual family? These things are already true though many have yet to realize it in their lives. Let us always be ready to serve.

With Humility and Respect for the God Given challenge of living, –Benet R. □

COVER:

“50th” Photo by Carolyn Kendall. Photos provided by Barbara Newsom.

☞ We shall have a different image on the cover for every issue. Artists, illustrators and other creative types are encouraged to submit images for possible use on the cover. Send your images to admin@urantia-iaa.org.

The Committee for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of *THE URANTIA BOOK*

Most cordially invites everyone to an evening of dinner and dancing. Come join us as we honor the unparalleled teachings and the devoted mortals who helped bestow them to our world.

Sunday, October 16, 2005

5 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel
Rivernorth Ballroom
600 North State Street
Chicago, Illinois

Cash Bar

Music and Dancing

Evening Attire Suggested

\$150 per plate

**NET PROCEEDS GO TO
URANTIA FOUNDATION'S
TRANSLATION FUND**

For more information contact committee member:

James Woodward

TBandG@comcast.net

TIDINGS

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

TIDINGS is a monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *THE URANTIA BOOK* and to disseminate its teachings. UAI supports Urantia Foundation.

THE URANTIA BOOK online:

<http://www.urantia.org/papers/index.html>

You may submit articles about *THE URANTIA BOOK*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision. **Submissions limited to 1400 words**, about two pages with a photo or graphic image.

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Editor: Cathy Jones, cthjon@aol.com

Spanish Translation: Olga López,
olga.lopez@ya.com

Design: M. Caoile

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